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PHILADELPHIA
Thursday, March 14, 2013

- Conclave elects Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio to serve as first ever Latin American pontiff
- What's next for the Argentinian now known as Pope Francis I?
- Philly archbishop says pope is 'deeply engaged in contemporary life' {pages 04, 06, 10}

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local

Labor unions are fighting for their rights

Members call on Nutter to revisit contracts {page 02}

films

Jim Carrey's 'Incredible' new role

The comedy legend on magic and jokes {pages 18-19}

music

We love Texas for its Indians and Riff Raff

Our discoveries from the first night of SXSW {page 14}

Parents: Concerned about your child between the ages of 12-25 who is using drugs or drinking? The Family Training Program may be able to help!

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1

In the news

99.9%

Of Pennsylvanians live within 10 miles of a gun store, according to a map released yesterday by Mayors Against Illegal Guns.The group says the statistic refutes the NRA's claim that universal background checks for all gun purchasers in the state would be burdensome for firearm retailers. METRO

Local tweet

"Pope Frank--not to be confused w/ Saturday Night Fever's Father Frank. He left the priesthood to disco with brother Tony"

@JAYPATERNO, ON YESTERDAY'S PAPAL SELECTION OF BUENOS AIRES' CARDINAL JORGE MARIO BERGOGLIO, WHO TOOK THE NAME POPE FRANCIS I

In the news

Ex-high school dean hit with sex charges

Mark Preston Williams, the former dean of students at Northeast High School, who allegedly had sex with a 17-year-old student, was arraigned yesterday.

Williams, 56, was charged with institutional sexual assault of a student, unlawful contact with a minor, corruption of a minor, endangering the welfare of a child and interference with the custody of a child.

Williams' bail was set at $50,000, and his next court date is scheduled for April 2. METRO

By the numbers

56

Several of Temple University's graduate programs are moving up in the ranks. Beasley School of Law moved up to 56 from 58 in 2014 U.S. News & World Report rankings and is the second-highest law school in the state.

23

Fox School of Business' international program jumped to 23, and the College of Education rose six spots to 47.

Labor unions: We want fair contract negotiations

One union president says Nutter is holding employees 'hostage' Budget address is today

REKARD LARMA/METRO

Union members are calling on Mayor Nutter and his administration to treat them fairly.

Organized labor united yesterday in an unprecedented show of solidarity against Mayor Michael Nutter's administration because of what they say is an attack on workers' rights in Philadelphia.

"We are in a place where the labor movement was born," said Henry Nicholas, president of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees. "We're not going to let it die here."

The move came just a day before Nutter's annual budget proposal.

"The mayor needs to stop holding municipal employees and city firefighters hostage because he cannot collect revenue," said Cathy Scott, president of municipal white-collar union D.C. 47.

Members of D.C. 47 and city blue-collar union D.C. 33 have been working without a contract for five years, while firefighters and paramedics represented by IAFF Local 22 have gone without a contract for four years.

Since taking office in 2008, Nutter hasn't resolved a contract with any union outside of the state's mandated arbitration.

"You take away the last bastion of workers' rights when you take away collective bargaining," AFL-CIO Philadelphia Council president Pat Eiding said.

He said the country is currently in a situation where nonunionized workers facing economic hardships lack sympathy with organized workers in their fight to retain rights.

"If you have those folks and you give up and you don't fight, tomorrow they're going to take away more," he said.

Alex Wigglesworth
awigglesworth@metro.us

Nutter replies

Nutter's press secretary Mark McDonald said the city has reached an "impasse" with D.C. 33 after attempting to negotiate in good faith.

"We see the union leaders' refrain of 'no' every time we bring up issues related to reforming the pension system, healthcare costs and work rules, which they frame as the destruction of the collective bargaining process," he said.

The mayor says he feels the contract terms extended by the city are fair.

"People out there are saying, 'I don't have a pension, why should you get one?' When instead they should be saying, 'We should all have pensions.'"
EIDING

Budget block

Union members plan to show up in force at City Hall for this morning's budget address.

"The walls are starting to close in on him," said business manager John Dougherty of Local 98.

Nicholas hinted union members may block council members and other politicians from entering the meeting.

"Since they're not doing anything for the people, they shouldn't be able to get in," he said.

Philly awarded $1M to grow civic start-ups

Philadelphia was selected as one of five winners of the Bloomberg Mayors Challenge, Mayor Michael Nutter announced yesterday.

The city will receive a $1 million innovation prize to create the Philadelphia Social Enterprise Partnership uniting city government and private start-ups to solve urban quality-of-life issues.

"Philadelphia's selection as a Mayors Challenge winner is a huge honor for our city and a testament to the creative, innovative work that is going on across city government," Nutter said in a statement.

MAYOR'S OFFICE

The city and entrepreneurs can work hand in hand.

The partnership will build on recent Philadelphia innovations like the opening of the municipal data trove for use by private citizens and entrepreneurs, according to the mayor's office.

Nutter said in November that the partnership will establish an executive board of city officials to identify two to three issues affecting Philadelphia each year.

The city will send out a nationwide open call for proposed solutions. The effort will add an estimated 30 new start-ups to the city each year, the mayor's office said in the fall.

"Mayor Nutter's winning idea will help city government leverage innovation and creative talent to tackle an array of major challenges," said NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg. METRO

An Open Letter to the
Citizens of Philadelphia

As city workers, we believe Philadelphia is America's most resilient and vibrant city. Since the days of Benjamin Franklin, Philadelphia has fostered a commitment to public service and the common good. It was here that America saw its first public hospital, first fire department, first high-quality public schools.

We are proud that we have always been part of the city's strength. Whether it's removing snow after a major blizzard or cleaning the streets and repairing traffic signals after Hurricane Sandy, we know the importance of responding to the needs of Philadelphians.

We show our commitment every day in libraries, recreation centers, fire houses and city agencies that provide essential services. We save lives providing emergency medical services — and risk our lives entering burning buildings. We protect at-risk children, keep the water safe and our restaurants sanitary, monitor our city's air quality and collect the trash.

It's not just that we work for the city. We live here. We worship here. Our children go to school here.

For the past four years, we have worked without a contract or raise. Our sacrifice kept the city moving forward and saved more than $250 million. But as Philadelphia emerges from tough times, Mayor Nutter continues to promote an agenda that balances the budget on the backs of working people — and provides tax incentives to the city's top 2 percent income bracket. To protect the city's wealthiest, he has reduced essential services such as libraries and fire houses. Disregarding four decades of collective bargaining history, he has dictated cuts to city workers and refused to honor three separate rulings giving firefighters overdue pay increases.

We believe it's time for a fair Philadelphia where our communities come first and a hard day's work is respected. ***As Mayor Nutter and the City Council negotiate the city budget, please call them at the numbers below and urge them to fight for vital services by fully funding city agencies and ensuring respect for Philadelphia's working families.***

Office of the Mayor
Mayor Michael Nutter: (215) 686-2181

City Council President
Council President Darrell L. Clarke: (215) 686-2070

Let's demand a better Philadelphia for ALL.

District Council 33
Pete Matthews, President

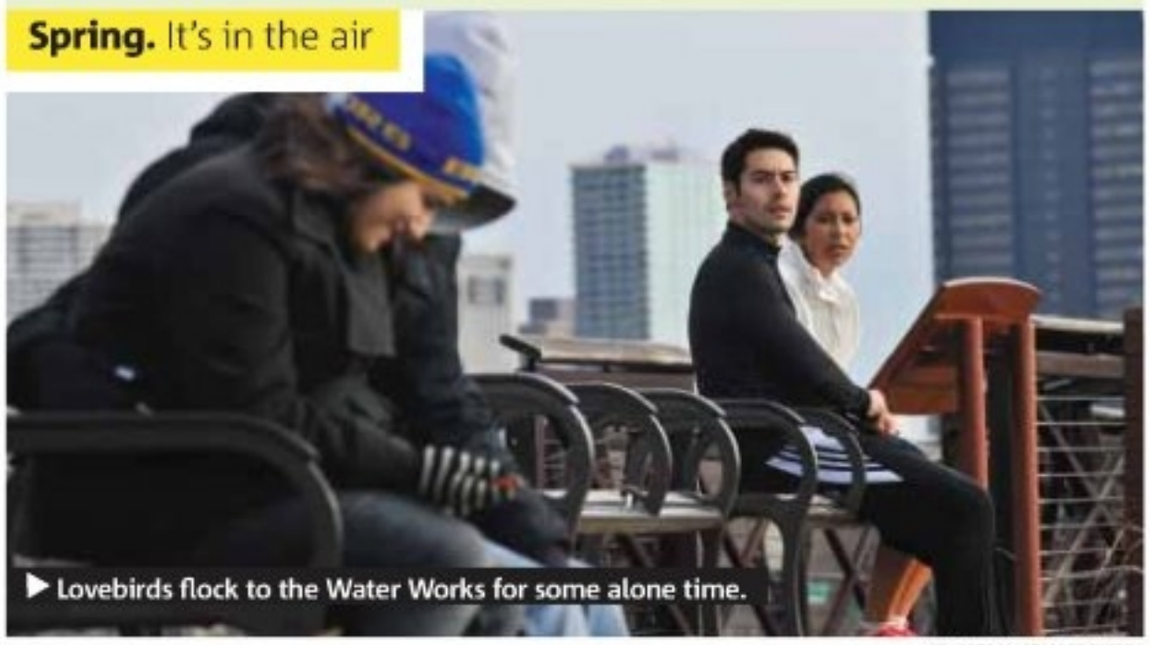
District Council 47
Cathy Scott, President

Local 22, IAFF
Bill Gault, President

We are grateful for the support of: Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO; Philadelphia Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO; 1199C, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, AFSCME; A. Philip Randolph Institute Philadelphia Chapter; Action United; AFSCME DC 13; AFSCME DC 88; American Federation of Teachers–Pennsylvania; Bread & Roses Community Fund; Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local #1 PA/DE; Building People's Power; Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Communications Workers of America Local 13000; DC 33 Retiree Chapter; DC 47 Retiree Chapter; Faculty and Staff Federation of Community College of Philadelphia, AFT 2026; Fight for Philly; IATSE Local 8; IBEW Local 98; Insulators Local 14; International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers Local 3; Ironworkers Local Union No. 401; Jobs with Justice; Labor Council for Latin American Advancement; Laborers District Council of Philadelphia; Living Water United Church of Christ; Maritime Port Council of the Delaware Valley; Media Mobilizing Project; Mishkan Shalom; NAACP; National Postal Mail Handlers' Union Local 308; Neighborhood Networks; Occupy Philadelphia Labor Work Group; Pathways; Pennsylvania Association of Staff Nurses and Allied Professionals; Pennsylvania Fair Share; Pennsylvania Federation BMWED– Teamsters; People's Economic Human Rights Campaign; Philadelphia CLUW; Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO Retirees Chapter; Philadelphia Democratic Socialists of America; Philadelphia Federation of Teachers; Philadelphia Jewish Labor Committee; Philadelphia Masjid Inc.; Philadelphia NOW; Philadelphia Organized to Witness Empower & Rebuild (POWER); Philadelphia Unemployment Project (PUP); Philadelphians Allied for a Responsible Economy (PhARE); Philaposh; Philly MoveOn Council; Plumbers Local 690; Restaurant Opportunities Center of Philadelphia; Rev. Michael Caine, Old First United Church of Christ; Rev. Robin Hynicka, Arch Street United Methodist Church; Saint Charles Senior Center; SEIU 32BJ District 1201; SEIU 32BJ Mid-Atlantic District; SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania; Sprinkler Fitters Local 692; Steamfitters 420; Student Labor Action Project at the University of Penn; Teamsters Local Union #312; Temple Association of University Professionals, AFT Local 4531; Transport Workers Union Local 234; UFCW 1776; UNITE HERE Local 274; UNITE HERE Local 54; UNITE HERE Local 634; United Steel Workers Local 10-1; Working America; Youth United for Change.

AFSCME 196-13

Spring. It's in the air



▶ Lovebirds flock to the Water Works for some alone time.

CHARLES MOSTOLLER/METRO

You've always got a honey in Philadelphia

Two sets of couples take in the view of the Schuylkill River from the top of a hill near the Water Works in Center City yesterday afternoon. METRO

Philadelphians want pope to bring change

CHARLES MOSTOLLER/METRO

▶ The Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul was quiet yesterday.

Philadelphians are hoping the new pope, the first to come from South America, can bring some change to the Catholic Church.

Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was introduced to the world as Pope Francis I yesterday afternoon. The 76-year-old from Argentina will now serve as the living head of the 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide.

It was quiet outside Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Center City a couple hours after the white smoke emitted from the Vatican chimney, but one local man said he hopes Francis focuses on making sure priests love the people they serve.

"They don't genuinely love people," said Ed O'Donnell. "They don't have a passion for turning lives around."

"I think what we as American Catholics want is for the church to understand they can't continue to take and take from us and not give back."
SPINO

Christina Spino, a 27-year-old Catholic, said there are entitlement issues in the Catholic Church right now.

"We're struggling. So they need to understand that we're in need, too, and they don't seem to," she said.

But Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, who met Francis in 1997, said he is a man "deeply engaged in the issues of contemporary life and able to speak to the modern heart."

Christina Paciolla
christina.paciolla@metro.us

In the news

SEPTA hires new chief engineer

SEPTA announced today it has hired a new chief engineer.

Andrew Gillespie, of Doylestown, will oversee the SEPTA'S Power, Track, Bridges & Building and C & S Departments.

SEPTA

▶ Gillespie

Gillespie has a total of 16 years of experience in the public transportation industry, according to a news release. Gillespie has worked at the transit authority for six years.
METRO

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USED CARS as low as $999 FRED BEANS REPEATS HISTORIC USED CAR SALE

Limerick, PA – Fred Beans, CEO and Founder of the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships located in Limerick PA, has announced a **ONE DAY SALE** on Saturday, March 16th at 9:00AM, where pre-owned vehicles will be sold for as low as **$999**. This sale is being held due to overwhelming public demand.

Cars will be clearly marked, so come early for the best selection. This is a **ONE DAY ONLY** sale designed to get the local community driving again.

Fred Beans' pre-owned inventory levels need to be reduced to make room for shipments of new models arriving daily. As a result, **all 3 Fred Beans Limerick locations are selling these overstocked pre-owned vehicles to the public at drastic discounts in an attempt to clear excess inventory.**

In addition to this huge variety of pre-owned vehicles, the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships in Limerick features new Chevrolet, Nissan and Kia vehicles.

Fred Beans believes reviving the economy starts at home, and changing things locally will lead to changing things nationally.

In addition to the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships' extra inventory, additional vehicles have been acquired at incredible prices from various banks, repossession companies, auto auctions, credit unions, lease companies, and rental companies for this sale.

The sale will make pre-owned vehicles available for as low as **$999**, prices not normally offered to the general public. According to Fred Beans, ***"We want to give our customers a reason to believe in the local economy again. Someone has to look out for their best interests."***

Customers are encouraged to arrive and register by 8:15AM to inspect the entire inventory and find the car that is right for them. Every vehicle will be cleaned, detailed, and fully prepared for instant delivery. On the evening of March 15th after close of business, Mr. Beans and his team will mark the special sale price on each and every vehicle.

Because Fred Beans' customers are feeling the credit crunch right now, the Fred Beans Automotive Group has given the dealerships' financing managers the resources necessary to get most customers' credit approved on the spot.

The Fred Beans Family of Dealerships has $10,000,000 in lending power, the result of over 50 years of strong relationships with the area's leading lenders. This means that customers with "less than perfect" credit history can have their credit approved and drive a quality pre-owned car, truck, or SUV home by lunchtime on Saturday.

Even if a customer's credit report shows a bankruptcy, divorce, tax lien, slow payment history, missed payment, or repossession, or if a customer is a first time buyer, Fred Beans may get them approved.

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Customers wishing to trade in a vehicle are asked to bring their title or payment book for immediate delivery. Fred Beans will even pay off your trade-in in full, no matter how much you still owe on it.

Most of these surplus pre-owned vehicles will get sent directly to auto auctions for liquidation. So, if anyone has been thinking about purchasing a good, clean, dependable pre-owned car, truck, van or sport utility vehicle, do not miss this special **ONE DAY ONLY** sale.

Courtesy transportation is available from all local airports, train stations and bus depots.

For more information about this sale and directions to our locations please visit us online at

www.999sale.com or
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The pope's first few days

Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio of Argentina is first ever pontiff from Latin America ◆ Pope Francis I to spend two days giving thanks ◆ Papal pick surprised many

The white smoke has risen, "Habemus Papam!" has been uttered and Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, Pope Francis I, has given his first "Urbi et Orbi" blessing as the first ever Latin American pontiff. But more formalities are to come in the first few days in Francis' papacy.

For his first two days as pontiff, Francis will offer thanks.

This morning, he will celebrate Mass in the Sistine Chapel with the cardinals who elected him.

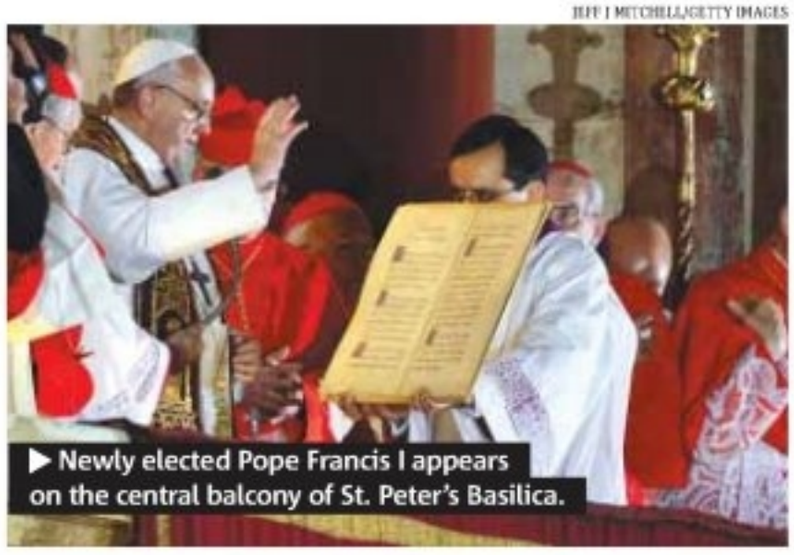
He will then spend time at the Apostolic Palace (the pope's residence) answering congratulatory telegrams from heads of state and other world leaders.

This is an opportunity to renew dialogue and good relations with leaders of other faiths.

"I trust in the help of the Almighty to continue and to strengthen the dialogue and collaboration with the sons and daughters of the Jewish people," Pope Benedict XVI wrote in response to Rome's chief rabbi's telegram. Francis will then stage a brief audience with journalists.

Anthony Johnston
METRO WORLD NEWS

JEFF J MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Newly elected Pope Francis I appears on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.

Formalities to come

Francis' formal installation as pope will come at his inaugural Mass, normally held four to five days after the election in order to accommodate political and religious leaders from across the world.

During the Mass, Francis will receive the symbols of his office: the Fisherman's Ring and a pallium, a sash made of lamb's wool that represents the pope's role as the shepherd of his flock, the faithful.

Francis will then use his sermon at the Mass to lay out a vision for his pontificate.

What's in a pope's face?

The election victory of Jorge Mario Bergoglio took many by surprise, including psychology professor Peter M. Vishton, who created a system to determine the winner based on facial features.

The College of William and Mary professor polled hundreds and found that the Argentine "was an outlier, as he scored below median on our measures of attractiveness, trustworthiness and healthiness." The system predicted Boston Archbishop Sean O'Malley would be the next pope, but Bergoglio scored highly on "likeliness of winning." "He just looked the part," said Vishton, who added that the newly crowned pontiff's expression showed warmth and humility in his opening speech.

KIERON MONKS

A frank look at Francis

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the first ever pontiff from the Americas, is a low-key intellectual who rides the bus and visits the poor.

- Widely overlooked as a contender prior to this year's conclave, the 76-year-old Jesuit and archbishop of Buenos Aires was reportedly a close second when Benedict XVI was elected in April 2005.
- By nature a humble man but one caring of the destitute, Bergoglio has been a strong advocate of liberation theology, the new Christian movement that promotes church teachings to help the poor and oppressed.
- He has been critical of Argentina's decision to legalize gay marriage in 2010 and President Cristina Kirchner's efforts to free contraception and artificial insemination.

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USED CARS as low as $999

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In addition to this huge variety of pre-owned vehicles, the Fred Beans Family of Dealerships in Doylestown features new Ford, Lincoln, Mitsubishi, Dodge, Chrysler, Jeep, Hyundai, Nissan, Subaru, Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick, GMC, and Saab vehicles.

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In the news

US to extend waivers on Iran sanctions for 11 countries

The United States has extended 180-day waivers on Iran sanctions to Japan and 10 European Union nations in exchange for their cutting purchases of the OPEC nation's crude oil, Secretary of State John Kerry said yesterday.

The sanctions aim to choke funding to Tehran's nuclear program by slashing Iran's crude exports. Iran says the program is for civilian purposes. Countries in the West suspect it is attempting to develop nuclear weapons. REUTERS

"Today's determination is another example of the international community's commitment to convince Iran to meet its international obligations."
KERRY

Dollar signs: Solid retail sales bolster US economic outlook

News follows on tail of stronger job market ◗ Fed likely to keep current policy ◗ Dollar rises to seven-month high at report

Retail sales expanded at their fastest clip in five months in February, the latest sign of momentum for an economy facing headwinds from higher taxes and pricier gasoline.

The solid sales last month come on the heels of strong gains in employment and manufacturing.

But the improvement in the economic picture is likely insufficient to shift the Federal Reserve from its very accommodative monetary policy stance.

"The economy in February is looking solid. None of this, however, is likely to cause the Fed to change tack in the near term," said John Ryding, chief economist at RDQ Economics in New York.

The upbeat gains in retail sales came despite the end of a 2 percent payroll tax cut and an increase in tax rates for wealthy Americans on Jan. 1.
REUTERS

MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Americans are safely returning to one of their favorite pastimes: spending money.

1.1%
Retail sales increased 1.1 percent, the largest rise since September, after a revised .2 percent gain in January.

0.4%
Core sales, which correspond most closely with the consumer spending component of the GDP, rose .4 percent in February.

7
The report helped to lift the dollar to a seven-month high against a basket of currencies from around the world.

Growth forecasts raised

The gains in core sales in the first two months of the year offered hope that consumer spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of the U.S. economy, would probably not slow much this quarter after growing at a 2.1 percent annual rate in the fourth quarter.

- A second report from the Commerce Department showed business inventories rose by the most in more than a year in January.
- Retail inventories, excluding autos — which go into the calculation of gross domestic product — recorded their largest increase since August 1995.
- That and the rise in core retail sales should help boost economic growth after output barely expanded in the last three months of 2012.

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BAD CREDIT

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REPOS

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In the news

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Obama said the cancelations were an unfortunate result of the automatic budget cuts.

Obama seeking way to let students still tour White House

President Barack Obama is looking for ways to restart popular tours of the White House to allow certain groups, such as students, to visit.

"What I'm asking them is are there ways, for example, for us to accommodate school groups, you know, who may have traveled here with some bake sales. Can we make sure that kids ... can still come to tour?" Obama told ABC News in an interview on Tuesday and aired yesterday.

$74K

A week is saved by suspending tours

The White House earlier said it had to suspend the tours this month in the wake of mandated spending cuts known as "sequestration." The move saves the government about $74,000 a week.

Trips to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. are particularly popular in the spring as waves of school groups and other tourists descend upon the nation's capital. **REUTERS**

Obama, Paul Ryan express doubts over deficit-reduction pact

METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Democratic President Barack Obama and Republican budget chairman Representative Paul Ryan tamped down expectations for any kind of deficit-reducing budget deal this year, even as Obama prepared for a meeting yesterday with Republicans on Capitol Hill.

In an interview aired on ABC television, Obama said: "Ultimately, it may be that the differences are just too wide."

Ryan expressed similar doubts. The House Budget Committee chairman, who was asked in an MSNBC "Morning Joe" interview about prospects for a compromise. "I don't know. I don't know. I don't know," said the 2012 Republican vice presidential candidate.

The comments came as Obama prepared to discuss budget concerns with members of Congress for the second consecutive day, this time with House of Representatives Republicans as part of his so-called charm offensive with members of Congress, which has included rare visits to the Capitol Hill as well as dinners and lunches with Republicans.

$16.7T

The national debt is rising and now stands at $16.7 trillion.

In place of the old budget process, the country has been put through a series of white-knuckled deadlines like the "fiscal cliff" standoff in January and makeshift arrangements such as the across-the-board budget cuts, also known as the "sequestration," that took effect on March 1. **REUTERS**

Opposing vision

In opening remarks at his committee's work session, **Ryan** stressed the urgency in getting control of a national debt that is rising rapidly and now stands at $16.7 trillion. "The debt will weigh down our country and our economy like an anchor," he said.

Meanwhile, Senate Budget Committee

Chairman **Patty Murray** was set to begin debating her Democratic counterpart to the Ryan budget. Republicans already have mocked it as little more than a tax-heavy, spending-heavy plan that ignores the real U.S. fiscal problem: rapidly growing "entitlement" programs in an aging population.

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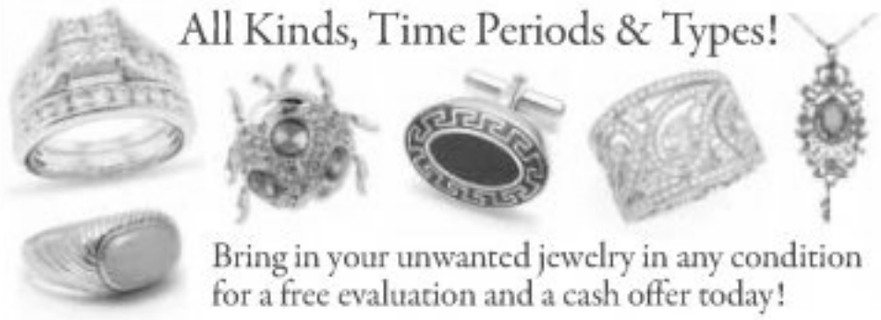

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THE WORD

Meredith Engel's take on the world of gossip @meredithatmetro meredith.engel@metro.us

– Dorothy Robinson will return on March 20.

Gaga recovers from surgery in custom gold wheelchair because, really, why not?

Did you really expect **Lady Gaga** to recuperate from her recent hip surgery in a boring wheelchair fit for plebeians? After all, this is Mother Monster, a woman who likes wearing **Kermit the Frog** puppets. So, she enlisted the help of designer Ken Borochov to create a custom 24-karat gold wheelchair, according to E! News. The chair features a reclining leather seat (because all that time sitting is certainly exhausting), stylin' spokes (in case she wants to go for a spin down the L.A. Freeway) and a canopy (too much sunlight is never good for a Lady of her stature).

We hope Gaga donates her wheelchair to the local old folks' home when she's done with it. Lord knows Betty Ann in 3C could use a little sunshine in her life.

Quoted

"I certainly wasn't expecting that phone call and have never done a wheelchair, but am always up for a challenge and was thrilled to create what I affectionately dubbed The Chariot, a chair fit only for a queen."

BOROCHOV

Kim Kardashian: Once more, with feeling

If you saw the "Keeping Up With the Kardashians" episode when **Kris Humphries** proposed to **Kim** and thought to yourself, "My, what a perfect proposal," know that it was all for the cameras. Life & Style claims they've got the court documents from "Keeping Up" producer **Russell Jay**'s deposition on Feb. 4 in the ongoing case to determine whether Kim and Kris' union should be annulled. Get a load of this transcription:

Q: More than once, you would film a scene and then have [it] be reshot?
A: I remember, like, Kim — she didn't know that he was going to propose at that moment. And she came in and she was completely surprised, and I think she had a bad reaction or something and she was embarrassed. So she said "Can we just, like, have me come back in one more time and be, like, really surprised?" Because she had no idea it was going to happen. It was in her bedroom.

Kim, better start practicing those giving-birth faces now. You've only got one chance to get that shot right.

Hot. Shot

▶ OK Abby Lee, you have our attention.

IN TOUCH WEEKLY

In the new In Touch Weekly, "Dance Moms" matriarch Abby Lee Miller swears she's not the monster she's portrayed to be on TV, despite this terrifying "Black Swan"-esque picture to the contrary. "I'm a schoolgirl at heart," the Pittsburgh native says. "There's still an innocence to me. I've done a lot of nice things for my girls. I take them to dinners, to movies, to Broadway shows. Most of my kids, over the years, have never seen a plane or been to a five-star hotel. I teach them which fork to use and things they won't learn in school."

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Sylvester Stallone has some bad news about "Expendables 3," Kirstie Alley is fine with profanity, Rebel Wilson is keeping it real and Charlie Sheen is ... using Twitter.

@TheSlyStallone
No S. Seagal, sorry, but maybe we get lucky with J. Chan! And some young bloods!!!

@kirstiealley
Oh who cares if we swear ?? They are just words ... just letters arranged in a fashion to sound tough or cool or angry.

@RebelWilson
I'm not too famous to eat crumbs off my chest x

@charliesheen
hashtag chefkla hashtag winning hashtag grinning hashtag keptyourjob hashtag bravo hashtag breakfast

Stallone

Talking points

Divorce has been good for TomKat

Apparently getting divorced was the best thing to happen to **Tom Cruise** and **Katie Holmes**, at least according to director **Adam Shankman**, who is friends with both. Shankman tells Us Weekly that since the couple's high-profile split last summer, the two are doing just swell. "They are incredibly happy," Shankman says. "I've just been emailing with him. He's coming back. He's shooting ["All You Need Is Kill"] in London and seems as happy as a clam. I know he sees his daughter." As for Holmes? "Katie seems really happy," Shankman adds. "You just fight through all the noise. And it's noisy!"

Swift's fan mail goes in the trash

Taylor Swift may find herself with fewer adoring fans once they find out their letters and cards to the country crooner have been ending up in the trash. Nashville resident **Kaylee Francescan** discovered a mass of Swift fan mail in a dumpster, she tells local station WKRN. "There were like hundreds of letters in there to Taylor Swift and I'm like, 'Oh my gosh!' I didn't know if they were stolen [or] discarded, so I threw them in a box," she says. "And I'm like, 'Somebody needs to let Taylor know.' It did bother me [because] I know how much her fans mean to her."

Is Catherine Zeta-Jones reprising her 'Chicago' days?

1: Nope, that's **Alicia Keys**, who glimmered on Tuesday while performing at the Staples Center in L.A.

2: Funnyman and "Parks and Recreation" star **Nick Offerman** sat down with **Jay Leno** on Tuesday.

3: Ke$ha, dressed like, well... **Ke$ha**, posed on the red carpet yesterday for Pure Nightclub's eighth anniversary party in Las Vegas.

4: Models **Candice Swanepoel**, **Karlie Kloss** and **Alessandra Ambrosio** continued to make every girl jealous on Tuesday while posing for pictures at the launch of Victoria Secret's 2013 Swim Collection in Los Angeles.

5: After the success of "Thrift Shop," we're betting **Macklemore** now has more than $20 in his pocket. The rapper performed at SXSW on Tuesday in Austin.

6: Samuel L. Jackson donned a wide grin while joking round with staff on Tuesday at the Observatory Golf Club in South Africa.

1: IMEH AKPANUDOSEN/GETTY IMAGES
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First night of SXSW provides surprises, disappointments and big crowds Hurray for the Riff Raff and Indians are highlights

SXSW

NOLAN GAWRON

TWITTER: @METROUSMUSIC

▶ Indians include more keyboards than people, but the result is somewhat stunning.

The freaks and the fashionable parade the streets from noon until morning in Austin, Texas. I joined the masses of South by Southwest revelers on Tuesday looking for something new, and I quickly found it. Making my way to Paste Magazine/Newport Folk Festival's showcase, I arrived just in time to see the start of **Hurray for the Riff Raff**'s set. The female duo from New Orleans played a riveting, stripped-down set of country-tinged blues, combining cover songs by Billie Holiday and Fred Neil as well as a slew of originals. Alternating between acoustic guitar and banjo, backed by a fiddle and the occasional toy piano, their set seemed perfectly at home on the front patio of the rickety old house now known as the Blackheart Bar. They make their debut at the Newport Folk Festival this year and they found out just hours before their set they'll be opening for the Alabama Shakes' upcoming tour.

From there it was on to Viceland to catch the **Skaters**' Austin debut. The buzz around them, combined with sharing a bill with **Waaves** and **Japandroids**, created a line of about 2,000 people that snaked around the block. This was the first show I missed out on, and I hope it's my last.

After watching a few songs from the street, I decided to make better use of my time and headed over to the Mohawk to hear the Danish band **Indians**. A three-piece consisting of more keyboards than people, the band layers loops, Moog synthesizers and a brain-rattling drum pad to create dreamy, slightly dancy music.

Looking for some more traditional rock 'n' roll, I drifted off to The North Door to catch **VietNam**. After taking the past five years off, Michael Gerner and Co. are back with a new six-piece lineup and a recent record, but their sound remains the same. It has dark, lengthy and often druggy narratives, delivered without traditional verse/chorus structure and set against a heavy shimmer of blues guitar riffs.

*—Follow **Nolan Gawron** on Twitter: @metrousmusic. Check www.metro.us for his updates on the best of SXSW.*

PHOTOS: NOLAN GAWRON/METRO

▶ Hurray for the Riff Raff will elicit hurrays from you.

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Madeleine Peyroux classes up the classics

- With 'The Blue Room,' the jazz songstress takes an intimate approach with old favorites
- Finding her style is 'a lifelong process'

Madeleine Peyroux croons Ray Charles classics on her new album "The Blue Room."

Madeleine Peyroux's silky voice is classic jazz, but with her new album, "The Blue Room," she's mixing in the twangy guitars and organ riffs of old-school country — courtesy of none other than Ray Charles. The album, made in close collaboration with producer Larry Klein, revisits many tracks from Charles' 1962 "Modern Sounds in Country and Western Music." Peyroux says she was inspired by Charles' capacity to make any song entirely his own.

"It's incredible to be a part of really, to have this personal space of your own as a singer and an incredible backdrop to explore these songs in a different way," she says, in a speaking voice that is as clear as her singing voice is smooth. "These are songs that I grew up with in various ways and various backgrounds. Starting with the original plan of paying homage to the Ray record is just an exciting place to start."

Why Ray Charles?

I think of him as being at the center of American music in the 20th century. Not just because of his incredible soul sound, but also because he brought in so many different sounds and styles. This record especially is an example of what I feel he did for a lot of American pop music, mixing it all together.

Lots of songs on this album like "Bye Bye Love" and "You Don't Know Me" have been interpreted so many times, but your versions are very "you." How do you find your style within the song?

It's a lifelong process because, like wearing a pair of jeans, it takes time to become a part of you. The goal really is to be able to do that with every song. Even though we change as people as we grow, so that our attitude to the interpretation might change, but the goal is to do it right, to find a way that's going to work for who you are, no matter who you are. There are some songs that I can't really sing anymore and there are other songs that I couldn't sing when I was much younger that I can sing now.

Is there a particular song on this album that moves you more than any other?

They are all pretty powerful, and we have a lot of very strong ballads on this record — something that's not very common in the music business these days. "Bird on the Wire" probably takes the cake right now. It's the most powerful lyrics for me, and I am so glad I finally got to sing that song because I have been wanting to cover it for a long time now.

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TV watch list

'Braxton Family Values'

REALITY. This diva-filled show finds Toni Braxton and her clan vacationing in Italy. Rest assured that the notion of "when in Rome" is probably a bit too bland for these siblings. **Season premiere, 9 p.m., WE**

'The Vampire Diaries'

DRAMA. Elena rejoins the cheerleading squad and then gets into a fight at her own party. In other words, this is like "Bring It On: Goth Edition." **8 p.m., The CW**

'The Office'

COMEDY. This Dwight-centric episode is all about the Schrute family farm, where beets grow, zaniness ensues and a flailing network show attempts to redeem itself. **9 p.m., NBC**

'Kathy'

TALK SHOW. Kathy Griffin welcomes one of the funniest celebrity couples alive, Megan Mullally and Nick Offerman, as well as Michelle Trachtenberg. **11:30 p.m., Bravo**

MATTHEW JACOBS

▶ The Braxtons demonstrate "Braxton Family Values."

JASON LAVERIS/FILMMAGIC

Get to know Shemekia Copeland

SAKDRINE LEE

▶ Blues singer Shemekia Copeland will be at World Cafe Live tonight.

Shemekia Copeland was "a very nervous 8-year-old" when her dad, blues legend Johnny Copeland, brought her onstage to perform at the Cotton Club in Harlem. Twenty-five years later, Copeland released her seventh critically acclaimed blues album. And tonight she'll perform at World Cafe Live as part of WXPN's concert benefiting Musicians On Call. We spoke with Copeland about her biggest influences — and the one thing she'd bring to a deserted island.

What three words would you use to describe your new album "33 1/3"?
Contemporary, contemporary, contemporary. What blues in the 21st century should be.

If you had to name just one musical inspiration, who would it be?
My dad and Koko Taylor.

What is the last song you listened to on repeat?
"Gomni" by Ali Farka Toure. Love it. I listen to it over and over again.

What accomplishment are you most proud of so far?
Going over to Iraq and playing for the troops. And performing at the White House for President Obama.

What makes you nervous?
When I'm in a situation where I don't know what's going on.

What makes you happiest?
Being onstage.

What is your most prized possession?
My brother gave me an award for being the world's best sister. I had just lost out in a blues award I was nominated for, and he put things in perspective.

What is one thing you would take to a deserted island?
My iPhone. Because I'd have music and a way to reach people so I could get off the damn island.

Rachel Vigoda
letters@metro.us

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Southern charm onstage

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Brooklyn brings its Mormon comedy to Philly The interactive musical opens tonight

The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Brooklyn is presenting "Missionary in Manhattan: Big Philly Style," a musical comedy about Mormons that originally took place in New York but is now set in Philadelphia.

Did you get all that?

The theater company is made up of transplanted Southerners who all wound up in Philadelphia and New York, explains says director Kaleigh Malloy. So while they originally wrote "Missionary in Manhattan" for the Big Apple, it wasn't much of a stretch to to tweak the show for the City of Brotherly Love.

"Missionary in Manhattan: Big Philly Style" follows three Mormon sister wives — Gretchen, Fanny and Bunny Katherine — as they travel north from their compound in Tennessee in search of their missing husband. Last anyone saw, he was spotted at Tavern on Camac in the Gayborhood, with his vocal coach, Gerard.

"The show is a total farce, it's off-the-wall," Malloy says. "It's three small-minded women thrust into completely unforeseen circumstances, and it's a parody on where we are as a nation and the institution of marriage."

The audience will have a chance to be part of that parody, since "Missionary in Manhattan" is interactive, with "no fourth wall," Malloy says.

Expect unusual takes on well-known pop hits, like a version of Rhianna's "Only Girl (In the World)," changed to "Only Wife (In the World)," and Cee Lo Green's summer smash retitled "Bless You," as well as plenty of original songs about Southerners dazed and confused in the big city — which also wasn't a stretch for the folks at Ukulele Orchestra.

"We're all such Southerners at heart. We have Southern tendencies. So we experienced a similar culture shock [to the characters]," Malloy says. "But we're also still trying to maintain our Southern charm."

Rachel Vigoda
rachel.vigoda@metro.us

Quoted

"We're all such Southerners at heart. We have Southern tendencies. So we experienced a similar culture shock."

MALLOY, ON CHARACTERS IN "MISSIONARY IN MANHATTAN: BIG PHILLY STYLE"

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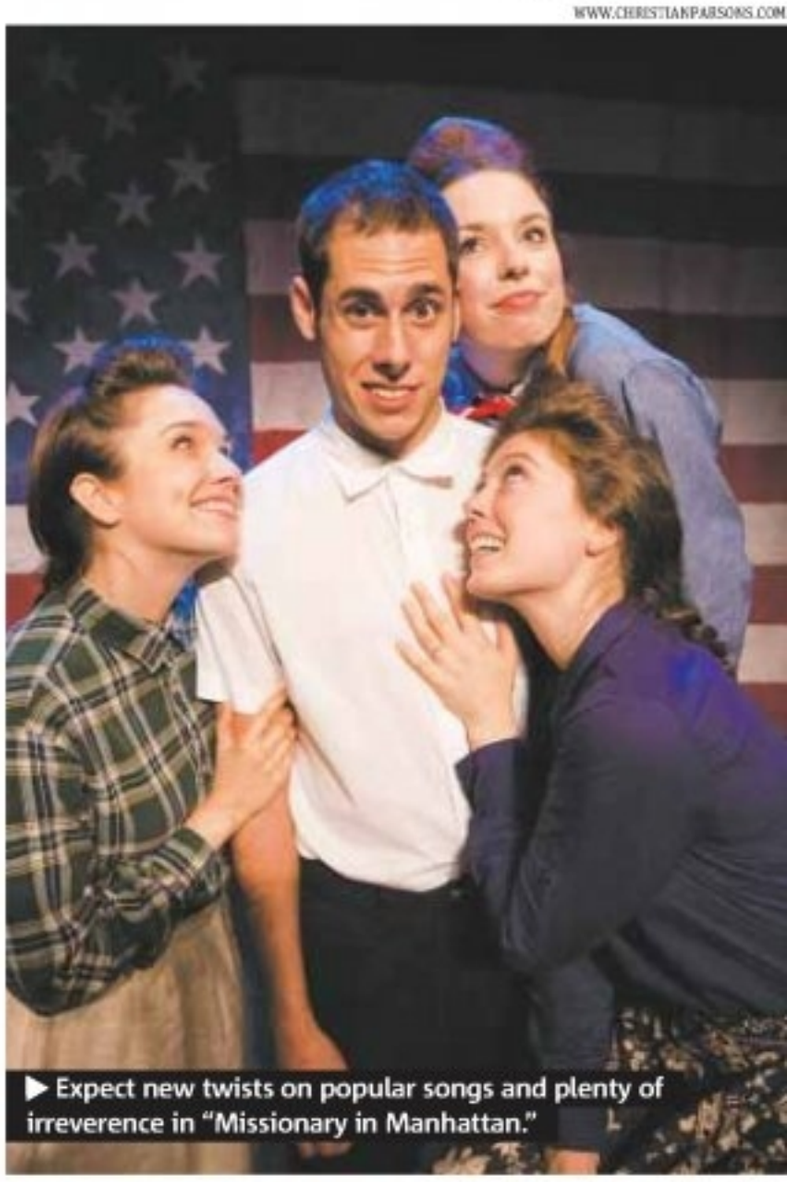

▶ Expect new twists on popular songs and plenty of irreverence in "Missionary in Manhattan."

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JIM CARREY: THE

‘The Incredible Burt Wonderstone’ star talks comedians vs. magicians, weird dreams caused by the artificial air in Vegas hotel rooms and whether or not his iguana had its own chef

▶ Jim Carrey, and his hair, star in “The Incredible Burt Wonderstone.”

For Jim Carrey, filming and promoting “The Incredible Burt Wonderstone” has meant spending a lot of time in Las Vegas, a unique city that apparently has quite the effect on the comic actor. “There’s everything here. You can’t pinpoint it, this big Vegas glitzy thing. When you look out on the strip, it’s blinding, the energy that they have,” Carrey says. “I’m not a gambler, not [into] the Sin City part of the deal; I like the shows.”

One other thing he doesn’t like is all the filtered air. “I like being on the street in Vegas. I have trouble in the room,” he says. “Nobody puts a window in that you can crack. I just get drier and drier. By day three, I’m beef jerky. I have crazy dreams here. Last night I had a dream that I had been shrunk down to the size of an insect, and I was swallowed by a hungry giant and I went though his esophagus and into his stomach, and I was burned by his juices. By the time I got to the lower intestines, I wasn’t anything that I could recognize. Then the fella took everything that I had, and I woke up at that point at the cashier at Bally’s begging for another line of credit. I don’t know if it was the Ambien or I have a gambling problem. If someone could give me $500, I swear I’m good for it. Seriously.”

Quoted

“I think magicians are a lot more arrogant. ... I was always fascinated by it growing up — they’re kind of like, ‘Abracadabra, you’re an idiot!’ They don’t let you in on the joke. Comedians are in on the joke — unless you’re Andy Kaufman.”

CARREY

In “The Incredible Burt Wonderstone,” Carrey co-stars as Steve Gray, a Criss Angel-inspired “edgy” illusionist at odds with Steve Carell’s more traditional titular magic man. While Gray and Wonderstone battle it out for a high-profile gig on the Strip, Carrey remembers his own days playing Vegas. “I used to open for Rodney Dangerfield years ago at Caesars,” he remembers. “I brought my dad down to the see the show. To see your name up on that big sign is such a thrill. ‘Wow, I’m really here.’ Then I had a shift and got away from impressions, and I started

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BEN GLASS

dressing weird with spiky hair and started imitating cockroaches avoiding vacuum cleaners. I totally lost the audience, which of course I planned to do from time to time. Rodney Dangerfield used to stand backstage and howl with laughter at my failure. I'd come offstage and he'd say, 'Man, they're looking at you like you're from another planet.'"

As for magicians, Carrey admits he hasn't always been the biggest fan. "There's not a lot of differences between magicians and actors, although I think magicians are a lot more arrogant," Carrey says. "That's what bothered me about magicians growing up. I was always fascinated by it growing up — they're kind of like, 'Abracadabra, you're an idiot!' They don't let you in on the joke. Comedians are in on the joke — unless you're Andy Kaufman."

Playing that level of arrogance also meant hitting the gym, as Carrey's Steve Gray is a tad bit ripped. "It's not a natural place to live, in that kind of shape. It looks great. It's fantastic, it gets a lot of attention — but you have to eat antimatter to stay in that kind of shape. It's not a happy place to live. I'm back now, I got Mr. Cuddly back," he says, gesturing to his gut.

Setting the record straight

Jim Carrey is known for some bizarre behavior — as his very active Twitter feed can attest. But that reputation may have gotten a bit out of hand, he admits. Case in point:

"The craziest rumor that I've heard about myself is that I have an iguana and that in my rider it's written that I have to have a chef for my iguana," Carrey says. Total nonsense? Well, not completely. "I had an iguana, but I didn't have a chef for him," he explains.

Ned Ehrbar
METRO WORLD NEWS

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9 REASONS TO HIT THE MOVIES

BEN GLASS

1 'The Incredible Burt Wonderstone' The obscure underdog that opened the SXSW film festival stars someone named Steve Carell, up-and-comer Steve Buscemi and an actor called Jim Carrey.

GREG GAYNE

2 'The Call' Oscar winner Halle Berry, still-young Oscar nominee Abigail Breslin, who is now 16, and Morris Chestnut star in a thriller about a 911 operator who fields a call from an abducted girl.

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

3 'No' In this rollicking Chilean docu-dramedy, Gael Garcia Bernal plays an ad wiz hired to head the campaign to oust monstrous dictator Augusto Pinochet from power. Spoiler alert: It worked!

EUROSPACE

4 'Like Someone in Love' Iranian director Abbas Kiarostami travels to Tokyo for this playful portrait of miscommunication between a young prostitute, her elderly john and her fiance.

MACALL POLAY

5 'Stoker' Park Chan-wook ("Oldboy") makes his American debut with this potboiler about a high schooler (Mia Wasikowska) who learns her uncle (Matthew Goode) is a serial killer.

BOX FILMS

6 'Lore' Cate Shortland's "Somersault" starred Abbie Cornish and Sam Worthington. Will fame happen to Saskia Rosendahl, star of her latest, about kids of Nazis in postwar Germany?

INTERNATIONAL FILM CIRCUIT

7 'The Waiting Room' A further reminder of our lacking health care system, Peter Nicks' documentary observes 24 hours at a California hospital, where doctors tend to mostly uninsured patients.

DISNEY ENTERPRISES

8 'Oz the Great and Powerful' In order to avoid a repeat of 1985's box office flop "Return to Oz," which terrified kids (or at least parents), Disney has hired Sam Raimi, who made three "Evil Dead" movies.

JOHN BAER

9 'Dead Man Down' The team behind "Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" reunite in America for this ridiculous revenge saga, with Colin Farrell, Noomi Rapace and — yes! — Isabelle Huppert.

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Moving on after divorce: Only after letting go of anger can you start anew

Shrink Wrap

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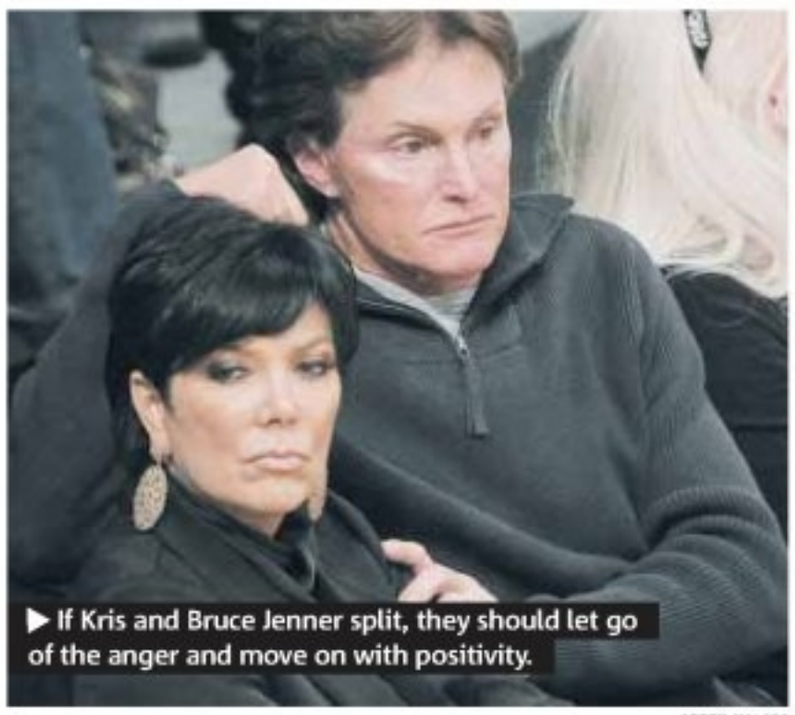

▶ If Kris and Bruce Jenner split, they should let go of the anger and move on with positivity.

GETTY IMAGES

The tabloids are speculating about Kris and Bruce Jenner: Are they headed for divorce? If so, then they would each eventually join the legions of people who have had to start over. Dating after a divorce can be challenging, whether you are in the public eye or not. Two simple rules of thumb can help you push forward into new romantic territory.

First, avoid comparing the person you are dating to your ex. While it is tempting to measure them for better or worse against your former partner, the real goal is to focus on how they make you feel about yourself when you're with them. Evaluating them based on how you felt about your ex rather than on who they are means you will wind up either regretting what you lost or angry about what you missed out on all those years. That will mire you in the negativity of your former marriage — keeping the pain and loss of divorce alive — instead of letting go and moving on with a new flame. Stay focused on building a new relationship and leave your past where it belongs — behind you.

Second, avoid badmouthing your ex — especially to the person you are dating. This is a difficult one, because most people come away from divorce angry about what went wrong and wanting to talk about it. Be mindful about who you vent to: Blaming and criticizing could scare off your new partner. They could wonder what you might say about them if they did something to upset you. There are two sides to every story, so as much as possible try to present a balanced picture when you are speaking about your former marriage.

Whether you are famous or not, when dealing with the aftermath of divorce this old adage can be helpful: If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all. When you talk negatively, you keep bad feelings alive. When you talk positively, you put them to rest. The ultimate goal is to get on with your new life in a better place for what you gained from your old one.

Keep these rules in mind and you will be equipped to leave the past in its place and move on with your exciting new dating life.

— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** *is creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

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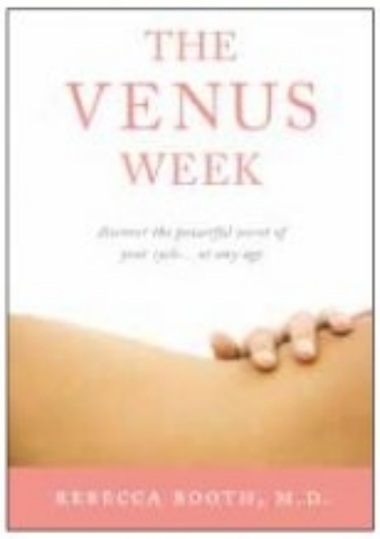
TAPPING INTO YOUR 'VENUS WEEK'

Dr. Rebecca Booth's book and high-end skin care line are based on the concept that women look their prettiest the week before ovulation How to make the glow last all month long

In her book "The Venus Week," gynecologist Dr. Rebecca Booth contends that women have awesome hair days and glowing skin in their pre-ovulatory period, when their levels of estrogen and testosterone are highest. With Dr. Booth's simple tips, women can trick their bodies into producing that Venus glow all month long.

How can women figure out their "Venus Week"?
The easiest way is to understand where you are in your cycle, the first day being the first day of your period. About day 10 or 11 women start to experience some hormonal highs. Another simple way to do it is a temperature chart, which can give a woman a reflection of her hormones throughout the month if she's not on the pill.

How can women achieve the hormonal boost that will help them look their best?



The way that hormones control our emotions is by altering the mood regulators in our brains, like serotonin and dopamine. During that peak hormonal time, those chemical levels are pretty high. Women can offset the drop in these chemicals with exercise and meditation. Nutrition is also important. Plant proteins like nuts, lentils, soy and seeds contain phytoestrogens that mimic our bodies' estrogen and boost metabolism.

What can "The Venus Week" teach women about beauty?
Women should limit foods containing carbs and sugar that raise the body's insulin level, which upsets the body's ratio of estrogen. Cycle-related acne is also related to a dip in estrogen, which decreases pore size. Omega-3 fatty acids are a great natural lubricant that offset the decline of collagen.

Natalie Shure
letters@metro.us

VENeffect

Dr. Booth created a line of products with her sister Cecil Booth, a skin care expert, to reverse the signs of hormonal aging. The products — ranging from $85 for the anti-aging lip treatment to $195 for the firming serum — are sold at Neiman Marcus and at www.veneffect.com.

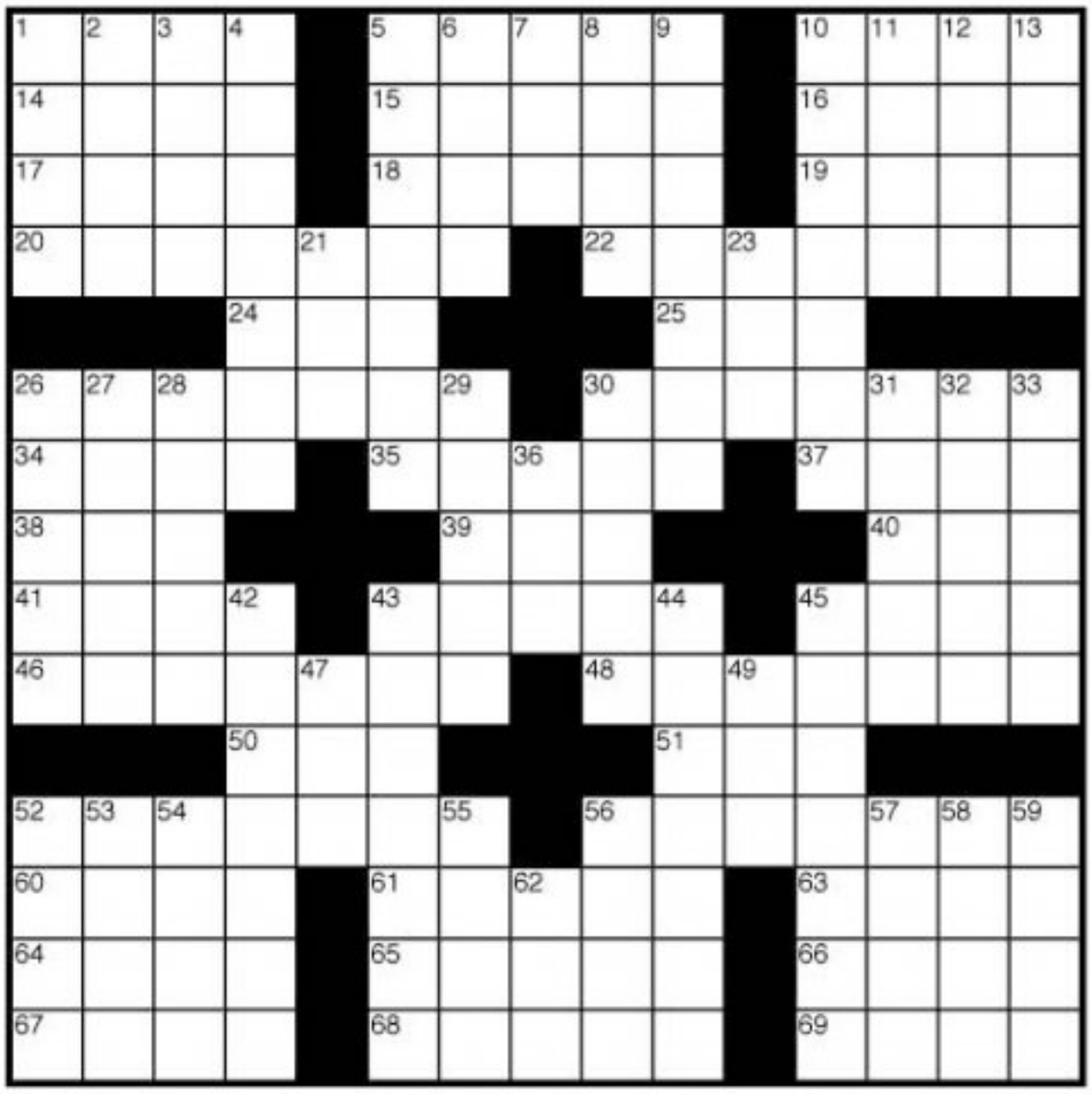
"VENeffect stimulates the production of collagen and supports elasticity to help sustain that glow so that we don't just have a Venus Week, but the Venus effect," says Dr. Booth. "Our product line uses a very high level of plant-derived estrogens that are safe and prescription-free."

Style news

Drybar launches hair care line

It's the natural evolution of a brilliant business idea: a spin-off line. For Drybar — the revolutionary chain that pioneered the blow-dry bar phenomenon — this means rolling out with your first-ever line of styling products and hair tools. The goods — all featuring names that play on the "bar" theme, like Happy Hour Conditioner and Full and Half Pint round brushes — range in price from $20 for dry shampoo to $185 for a blow-dryer. And like the cheery chain, all the packaging features Buttercup, the brand's adorable upside down blow-dryer logo. Now just try to convince yourself to blow out your own hair at home. METRO

Are you ready for Happy Hour Conditioner?



Across
1 Be an omen
5 Reddish horses
10 Fermi split it
14 Get — it
15 Spring month
16 Bard's villain
17 Elephant owner, maybe
18 Spread sand or salt
19 Little creek
20 Bouncy
22 Made possible
24 Help-wanted abbr.
25 Double helix
26 Trip
30 Long-eared dogs
34 WWW addresses
35 Blackball
37 Vaccines
38 Noise
39 Judicial order
40 Lion's quarry
41 Spur on
43 "The Eve of St. —"
45 Plunder
46 Naval officers
48 Rhine nymph
50 — Paulo, Brazil
51 Take a snooze
52 Powerful family
56 Boss
60 Confirm
61 Sister's clothes
63 Hollow
64 Squeeze oranges
65 "Maria —"
66 Buffalo's lake
67 Recipe amts.
68 Tears apart
69 Went blond

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1 Unwanted guest
2 Squashed circle
3 — vu
4 Pencil toppers
5 Used a CB
6 Fuel cartel
7 Uris hero
8 Warm-hearted
9 Slim
10 Seat belt advances (2 wds.)
11 Mermaid feature
12 Stare rudely
13 Downy fungi
21 First-down yardage
23 Santa — winds
26 Estimate
27 Easy-to-find constellation
28 Humerus neighbors
29 Safecrackers
30 Hard roll
31 Copier setting
32 Tennessee — Ford
33 Riyadh resident
36 Outlaw
42 Wins over
43 Not the same
44 Piano pieces
45 Improved the highways
47 You can step on it
49 Oversaw
52 Blowgun projectile
53 Cousteau's middle name
54 Lowest high tide
55 Sturdy lock
56 Gray matter
57 Big steel town
58 Journalist — Ducommun
59 Oboe feature
62 Jerry's ice-cream partner

Horoscope

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** You'll have a commanding presence about you that others will find quite attractive. To your credit, you'll know how to assert yourself without offending anybody in the process.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** Something out of the ordinary might result from an unexpected chain of events. Chances are it will open up a new pipeline that can produce some quality gains.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Don't be surprised if you sense that something good is about to happen, even if you don't know the circumstances. Let positive thinking light the fuse of this exciting cycle.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Although you'll get some brilliant ideas, they must not be executed prematurely if you want them to work. Don't allow impulsiveness to distort your timing.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Treat the day's happenings philosophically and you'll be able to make molehills out of mountains. Adopting an easygoing attitude will inspire others to act likewise.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** You're likely to have a slight edge over your competitors. Your ace in the hole will be a reserve of resources, both material and mental, upon which you can easily draw.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Upon occasion, you can be rigid and inflexible when it comes to your views. Today, however, you could surprise everybody with your open-minded nature.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Take matters into your own hands regarding something that you want changed. If it's not happening on its own, make the transformation yourself.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** The key to getting along with others is being cooperative. You'll have to set the example — only then will others treat you as you wish to be treated.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** You should take pride in your work, regardless of its significance. Additionally, performing to the best of your ability will greatly enhance your self-esteem.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Because you're not apt to take yourself or events too seriously, smooth sailing is indicated. You are less likely to be broadsided when you stop worrying about your ego.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** The aspects are extremely favorable for you where things of a material nature are concerned. Some financial opportunities will most likely develop from at least two different sources.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Solution to yesterday's crossword

Letters

'Sequester' hot potato started with the president

I get very irritated when I read Metro letter writers talking through thin air. A recent letter writer didn't know where the sequester was from and simply called it "a Republican demand" when actually the reality is that the Republicans are actually blameless this time around. The idea for sequestration began inside the Obama White House in July 2011 when the president thought "sequester" would actually prevent further gridlock and fiscal cliffs. That summer a vast majority of Democrats in the U.S. Senate joined their Republican members in overwhelmingly support the sequester idea — and over in the U.S. House, 79 Democrats joined in with the Republican majority and after signed by President Obama, became law.

I don't believe either side thought the Gramm-Rudman-style sequester would ever come to pass, but as we see, it did. All assumed that the very idea of across-the-board discretionary spending cuts would bring Capitol Hill to their collective senses. However, it is President Obama who is in reality the father of sequestration and not the GOP. Both parties are responsible for the inaction, but sequester was a Democratic idea.

SAL GIARRATANI, VIA E-MAIL

Thumbing noses at Constitution knows no party bounds

RE: "JUST DRONING ON" (METRO, MARCH 8) I was in full agreement of columnist Tom Foreman's column until I read his description of Democrats as "not giving a damn about the Constitution."

I'm not much of a Democrat myself, but I find this label to be extremely hypocritical. I mean, really? The cornerstone of this country's Constitution is that every citizen, whether rich, poor, blue or satanic has the right to vote.

Where do Republicans stand on this issue? Passing new voting laws during an election and arguing that the Voting Right's Act is now obsolete because some how racism no longer exists.

It's absolutely outrageous that any Republican can take such a moral high ground while the GOP's mainstream face is ridden with incompetent blemishes like SCOTUS Justice Scalia and Florida Gov. Rick Scott.

JEAN CHARLES, VIA E-MAIL

SUDOKU: EASY

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		4	7		6	8		

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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3

Burroughs taking fight to save wrestling viral

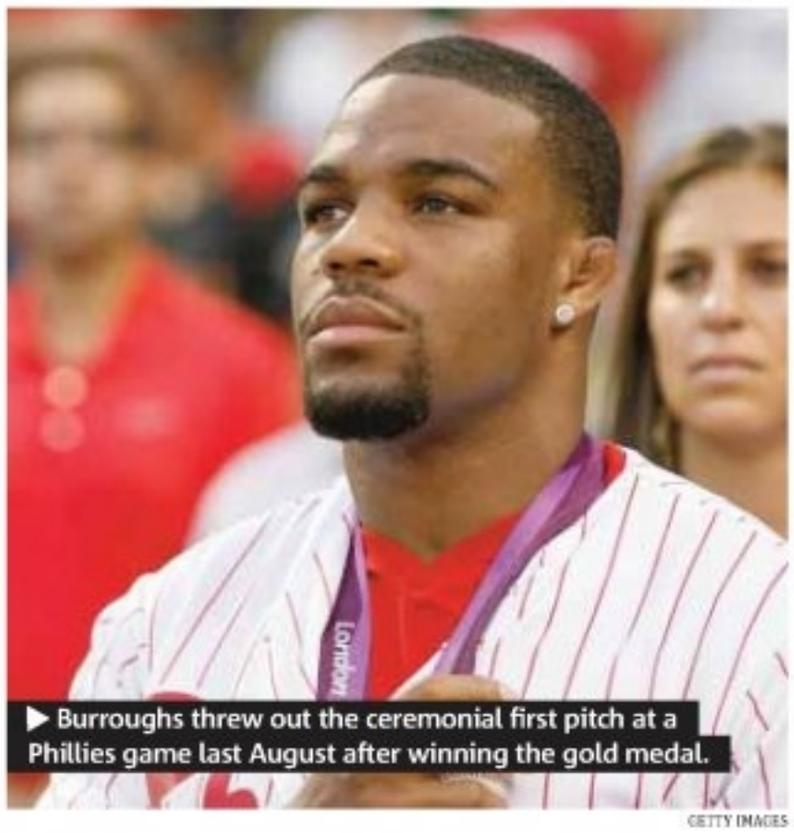
Local champion trying to keep sport in Olympics Calls moment he won gold medal 'pinnacle of career' Back from Iran, preparing for world championships

Wrestling isn't modern enough for the Olympics. The sentence sounds outdated, perhaps snobbish, but that's the main reason why the International Olympic Committee has chosen to eliminate the sport from the 2020 Olympic Games.

Forget that wrestling has been in all but one Olympics since 1896. It's not viewer friendly. It doesn't entertain fans. It's old news.

"It's saddening, disheartening, frustrating," said Jordan Burroughs, who won a gold medal at the 2012 London Games. "It's sad because it's a sport I've grown to love since I was 5 — taking that away, the chance to win a gold medal, that's the pinnacle of any wrestler's career."

Burroughs, a native of Sicklerville, N.J., has every right to protest the decision, maybe turn in his gold medal, like some fellow Olympians have threatened. He won't. In fact, Burroughs refuses to take potshots at the suspect events staying. The IOC is actually considering eight new sports, including roller derby.



▶ Burroughs threw out the ceremonial first pitch at a Phillies game last August after winning the gold medal.

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"I've never been one to underestimate the other Olympic sports," he said. "I want people to understand the amount of commitment we put in, all the Olympic athletes. Instead of removing sports, they should add them."

Burroughs, along with USA Wrestling, has taken the fight viral with Keepwrestlingintheolympics.com. The Facebook page has almost 100,000 likes. Burroughs is doing his part, supporting the movement on social media and obliging every media request. Still, he admits he is only one man.

"We need support from nontraditional wrestling fans," he said. "I'm trying to do my best, but it's hard to do it on my own."

Until then, Burroughs will continue to train. He just returned from the Wrestling World Cup in Iran, where he went 5-0 and Team USA placed third, and he'll compete in the World Championships in September. Burroughs also plans to pursue a second gold medal at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

"When I step out on the mat, it's not about winning gold medals anymore," Burroughs said. "I love to wrestle, I love to train, I love to compete. I just want to perform at the highest level and show people the commitment I have for the sport."

And, speaking of gold medals, where is that shiny piece of validation?

"I keep it at home on my dresser. It's just sitting there, just hanging out, [not in a trophy case]," Burroughs said. "The memory of being an Olympic champion, and the pursuit of that dream, is a lot more memorable than the medal."

Mike Greger
mgreger@metro.us

Quest for gold all started in New Jersey

Jordan Burroughs got into wrestling after watching WWE, then he picked up a flier at his elementary school and began his journey, one that was cultivated and strongly encouraged by his parents.

His mother, Janice, was one of the first people he embraced after winning gold in London.

"I didn't know if there would be tight ropes or chairs in the ring, but I wanted to experience it [wrestling]," Burroughs said. "I got into it, my parents got into it and I just stuck with it."

Would he ever consider joining WWE?

"Probably not now. I loved it as a kid, but not anymore," he said.

And while Burroughs lives in Nebraska, where he attended college, he never forgets his Philly roots.

"I love Wawa. I wish they had it here in Nebraska," he said. "Jersey is definitely close to my heart even if I never return there. It helped mold me into the man I am today."

METRO/MG

In the news

Teams battling for Asomugha

Nnamdi Asomugha might not be wanted in Philadelphia, but he hasn't worn out his welcome in the NFL.

The cornerback, recently released by the Eagles, is being courted by five teams — 49ers, Texans, Cardinals, Broncos, Saints — according to reports. The Eagles still owe him $4 million.

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Phils grooming Galvis to take over for Rollins

Charlie Manuel isn't too keen on young players. But there are exceptions — and Freddy Galvis is one of them.

The natural shortstop, who played exceptional second base after a crash course last spring training, is on the bubble this season. Chase Utley's creaky knees are handling the demands of the Grapefruit League. It's a relative given that Kevin Frandsen will be one of the backup infielders. So it's between Galvis and Yuniesky Betancourt for the remaining infield job.

"Freddy is a heck of a player," Manuel said. "Just watch what he can do out there."

No one can blame Manuel for marveling at Galvis, who is a defensive wizard at just 23. The Venezuelan seems considerably older since he's been with the organization since he was 16. He is exceptional in the field, but there have always been questions about his bat. Galvis only hit .224 last season with a wretched .254 on-base percentage.

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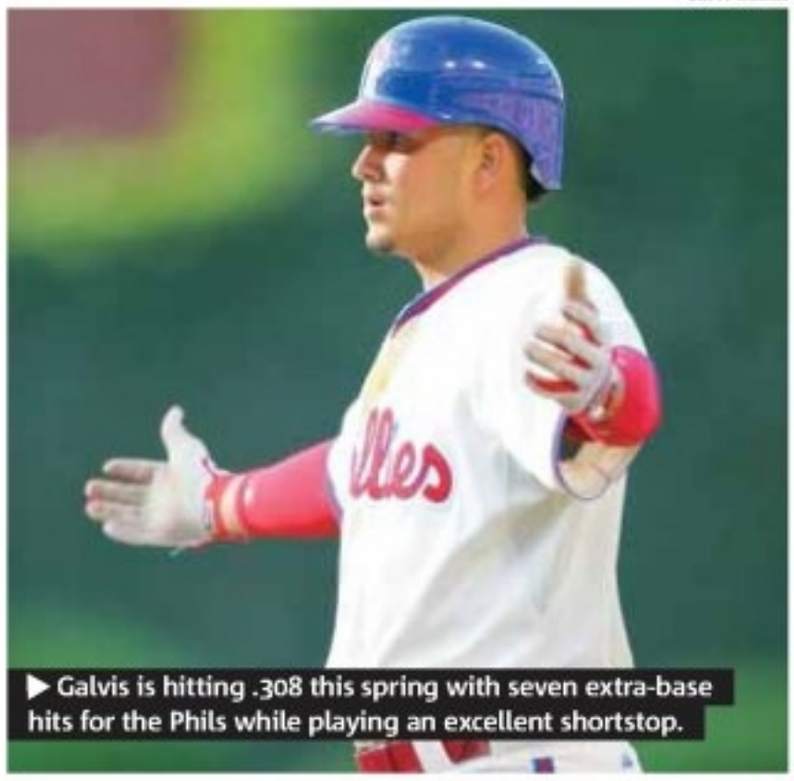

▶ Galvis is hitting .308 this spring with seven extra-base hits for the Phils while playing an excellent shortstop.

"That's something that I have to improve," Galvis said. "I need to be more patient at the plate. I know I can hit."

Galvis surprised with his gap power last season. He had 19 extra-base hits in 190 at-bats.

"I have a little pop," Galvis said. "I can drive the ball."

Galvis is hitting .308 with seven extra-base hits in 39 at-bats this spring. It helps if the boss likes you, and Manuel compares Galvis to perennial Gold Glove shortstop Omar Vizquel. Vizquel, also from Venezuela, didn't pick it up with his bat until he was 28.

"I'm confident I can do it all," Galvis said. "I'm trying to do all that I can to learn and play."

Well, if Jimmy Rollins' tenure as shortstop ends at the close of his deal after the 2015 season, Galvis will be just 26 at the start of the following campaign.

"I love being part of the Phillies," Galvis said.

Ed Condran
sports@metro.us

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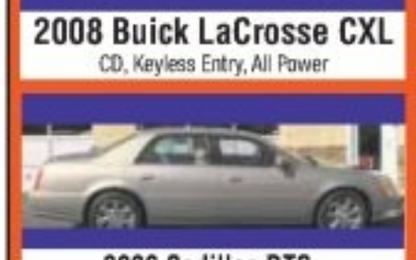
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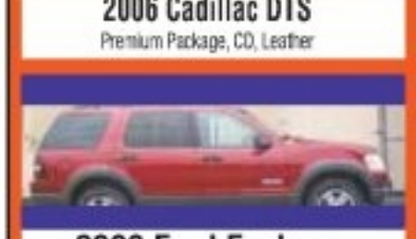
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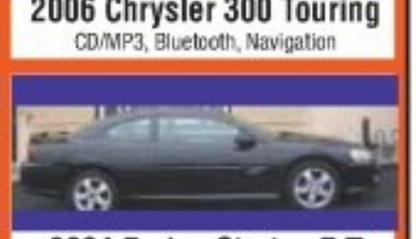
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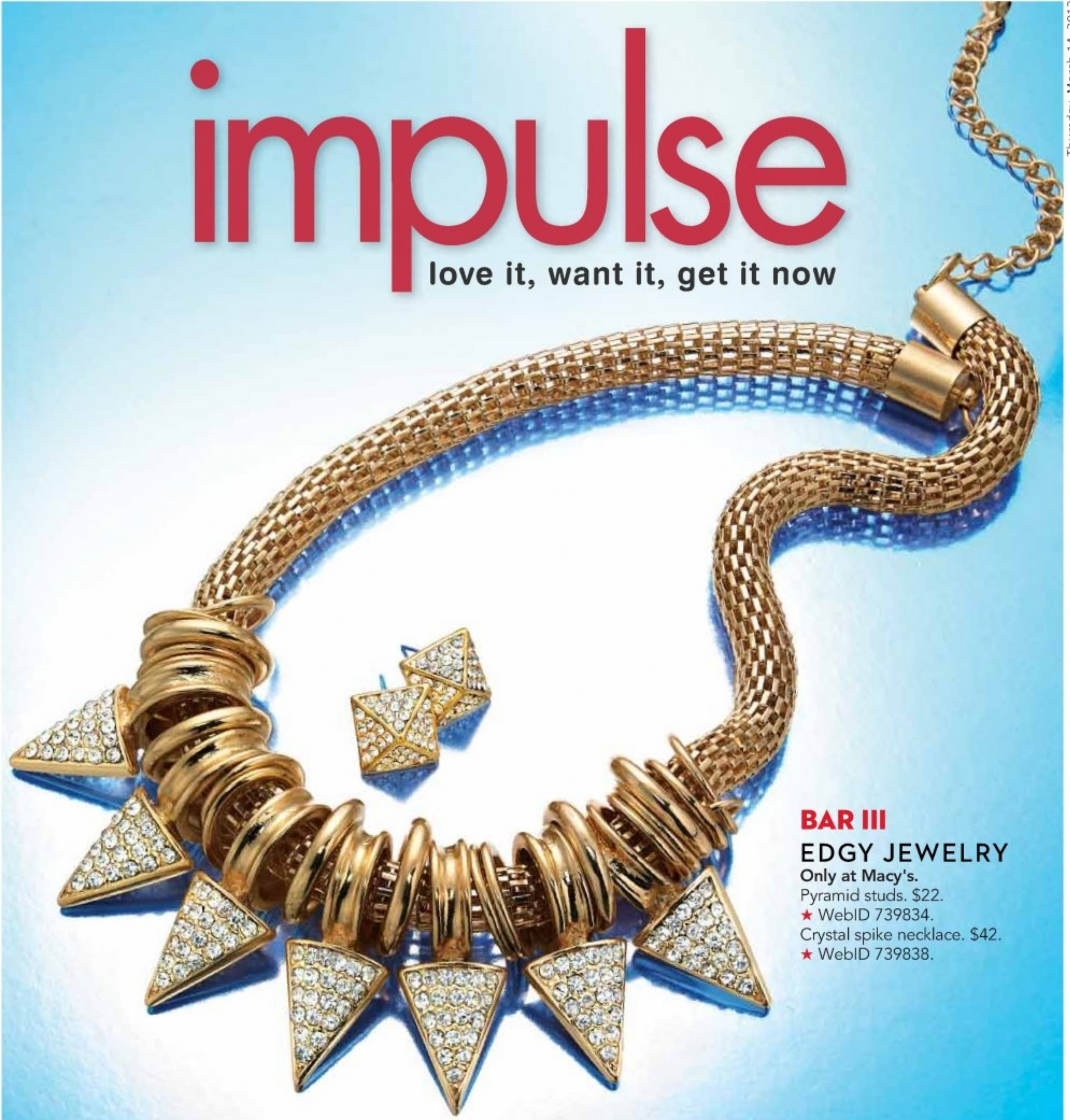

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